

# **Sustainable Sunnyvale**

## **Where We Are / Where We're Going**

REV DRAFT

### **WASTE REDUCTION**

**Lead: Department of Public Works**

**Goal:** Dispose of solid waste generated within the City in an environmentally sound, dependable, and cost-effective manner. (*Policy 3.2.1, Goal 3.2D*)

#### **Current Services**

##### **Solid Waste Management Program**

- Refuse Collection Services
- Residential Recycling Service (including collection of motor oil, oil filters, household batteries)
- Compost Workshops and Bins
- Hazardous Waste Drop-off
- Commercial Cardboard Recycling Service
- Commercial Recycling Assistance
- Green Business Program
- School Recycling Service
- Special Events Recycling
- City Facilities Recycling Service
- Internal promotion of waste reduction, recycling and environmental procurement practices
- Cloth Diapering Promotion
- Landfill gas capture/energy recovery
- Landfill environmental monitoring & management (groundwater, storm water, landfill gas, clay cap)
- Public access to landfill for walking, biking, bird watching

##### **Material Recovery and Reuse Transfer Program**

- Recover recyclables from refuse delivered by cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale
- Process, market curbside recyclables from Mountain View, Sunnyvale
- Process, market yard trimmings from Mountain View, Sunnyvale
- Compost distribution to residents
- Sharps dropoff
- Recycling buyback/dropoff
- Universal waste drop-off (for batteries, fluorescents, e-waste, motor oil, etc.)

#### **Current Practices**

- Habitat for burrowing owls (locally endangered species) is managed with assistance from a contracted owl expert
- Goats are used to graze landfill surface to reduce fire danger
- Storm drain inlets at SMaRT Station® and landfill are equipped with special inserts that filter pollutants out of storm water entering the inlets
- Refuse collection contractor has converted, with City assistance, most of its truck fleet to clean-burning compressed natural gas (CNG) from diesel fuel
- SMaRT Station pool car is a hybrid (Ford Escape)
- Division uses durable plates, glassware, napkins for staff events and makes these items available for checkout by other divisions
- Staff works collaboratively with other jurisdictions throughout the region to jointly promote waste reduction messages in a cost-effective manner

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### **Library Administration**

Programs for adults and children with an environmental theme which advance public awareness

- Earth Day, Arbor Day, Story times in the Charles Street Garden

### **Solid Waste Management Program**

- Reduction of paper use through our electronic Records Management System for police and fire reports.
- Electronic ticket writers in testing mode.
- Digital MVAR system eliminating the need for VHS tapes and written tracking documentation.
- Use of combined mailers for public notice of events, safety messages and recruiting.

### **Material Recovery and Reuse Transfer Program**

- Abandoned Hazardous Waste Collection at Fire Station 2.
- Battery recycling collection sites at all fire stations.
- Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA). DPS is certified by Cal EPA to implement six State environmental programs.
- Waste Tire Enforcement Program for the California Integrated Waste Management Board.
- Community vehicle recycling and abatement program. Providing year round removal of abandoned, wrecked, inoperative or poorly operating vehicles. Many of the vehicles are gross polluters. Most abated vehicles are sent to dismantlers for recycling. Twice annually DPS conducts this program offering free removal / recycling for voluntary surrender of these vehicles as part of the Tow Rotation Contract.
- Brass ammunition casing recycling.

### **Surface Runoff**

- The Public Safety Department trains emergency responders to make runoff management at emergencies a high priority and to take early steps to mitigate fluid and other contaminant infiltration into the storm drains by means of dykes, adsorbents and other appropriate methods.

### **DPS Hazardous Materials Storage, Use and Disposal**

- Resource for questions concerning proper disposal of Hazardous Waste.
- Provides environmental compliance and permitting assistance to other City departments; assures that the required monitoring of underground and above ground storage tanks is conducted.
- Conducts inspections and maintains records of City-owned facilities.
- Responsibility for investigation, definition and remediation of soil or groundwater contamination at City-owned facilities, and assures that appropriate compliance measures are taken.
- Ensures City facility compliance with Hazardous Materials Inventory Statements (HMIS), Hazardous Materials Business Plans (HMBP), and other necessary information. Inspectors take remedial actions as necessary.
- Provides overall coordination and inspection for all City departments.
- Solvent based cleaners used in the department armory have been replaced with water soluble, biodegradable, and eco-friendly compounds.

### **Services / Policies in Development**

### **Solid Waste Management Program**

- Fall 2008 Implementation of Pay as You Throw garbage collection rates and 32-gallon refuse carts (allows elimination of one refuse collection truck route)

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- Fall 2008 Implementation of On-Call Residential Cleanup to replace Spring and Fall Cleanup events (allows retirement of five older, high emission diesel trucks)

### **Material Recovery and Reuse Transfer Program**

- Installation of new, state-of-the-art materials recovery equipment that will allow recycling of a higher percentage of the garbage received at SMaRT Station from cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale
- Working with incoming SMaRT Station contractor on design/installation of a construction and demolition (C&D) sorting line that can automate recovery of this material and increase amount diverted from landfill

### **Library Administration**

Reducing or eliminating plastic bags for patron use and replacing with re-usable tote bags

### **Into the Future - DRAFT**

- Best practices for review
- Potential items for Study Issue papers

### **Operations**

- Increased partnerships with businesses, schools and non-profits to improve the public's awareness of environmental issues and waste reduction opportunities
- Increased usability of Solid Waste Division website
- Use of durable tableware (plates, cups, utensils, etc.) at City events, catered meals, etc.
- Ongoing, regular (e.g. biannual, quarterly) City-wide workshops providing environment information including recycling/waste reduction topics
- Closed Landfill Wildlife Protection Plan in conjunction with improved trail usability and outreach
- Bay-friendly landscaping and increased irrigation efficiency at SMaRT Station
- Internal (City facilities) waste diversion and environmental purchasing measurement and goals
- Track and evaluate research on hybrid refuse collection trucks (emerging technology)
- Increased energy-efficiency at SMaRT Station

### **Policy**

- Zero Waste Study Issue (2006 Workshop – Deferred)
- Development of Joint Powers Authority (JPA) approach to multi-jurisdictional outreach on topics of waste reduction and recycling, home composting, etc.
- Library of the Future proposed to be a LEED Platinum Certified building
- Use of renewable energy at SMaRT Station
- Annual City environmental event, in collaboration with other City Departments/Divisions
- Increased placement of recycling containers in public areas